

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CERTIFICATE Pre-Kindergarten - Grade 2

The Early Childhood Education Certificate is valid for assignment as an Early Childhood Education teacher in grades PK - 2 in Rhode Island public schools.

Certification Requirements for full Rhode Island Certification¹

To be issued a certificate in Early Childhood Education an applicant must satisfy all of the following:

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution
- Completion of an approved program for the preparation of Early Childhood Education Teacher
- Completion of a minimum of 12 weeks of Student Teaching in this area and a minimum of 60 hours Field Experience prior to Student Teaching
- Demonstration of meeting the Professional Competencies of the Rhode Island Professional Teaching Standards (RIPTS)
- Demonstration of meeting the Content Competencies as prescribed by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- Other requirements:
 - There are no other preparation and/or experience requirements for this certificate. However, applicants must meet all Rhode Island assessment requirements for this certificate area.

Assessment Requirements

Go to www.ets.org for test registration, dates and locations

All applicants must meet the following Rhode Island assessment requirements:

- Applicants must achieve a passing score of 174 on the Praxis II Education of Young Children (0021/5021) AND a passing score of 170 on the Praxis II Early Childhood: Content Knowledge (0022/5022).
OR
- Applicants must achieve a passing score of 160 on the Principles of Learning and Teaching Test K-6 (0622/5622) AND passing scores on the Elementary Multiple Subjects Test (5031) which consists of: a passing score of 165 on the Reading and Language Arts-subtest test (5032), a passing score of 164 on the Mathematics -subtest test (5033) , a passing score of 155 on the Social Science- subtest test (5034) , a passing score of 159 on the Science-subtest test (5035).
- Applicants prepared in a program where the language of instruction was not English must achieve a passing score of 64 on the Versant Pro Speaking and Writing English assessments.

Current Routes to Certification

Certification may be attained through the following routes:

- Completion of RI approved program from one of the following: Rhode Island College, Salve Regina University, University of Rhode Island
- Reciprocity
- Transcript Analysis

¹ Full Certification in Rhode Island means a multi-year certificate that demonstrates the educator has met all Rhode Island requirements for certification in the three-tier certification system (Initial, Professional, or Advanced certification). Full Certification does not include Preliminary Certifications which require educators to meet additional requirements to attain full certifications. Full certifications in Rhode Island are comparable to National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) stage three or higher certificates and are recognized by other states for certificate reciprocity.

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Reciprocity Requirements

Reciprocity is recognition of preparation or certification in another state as comparable to Rhode Island. Applicants seeking certification through reciprocity must demonstrate that they meet all Rhode Island certification assessment requirements, hold the additional required certificate and meet all experience requirements when applicable. Applicants can attain certification by completing a state approved program for Educator Certification in a state other than Rhode Island within the last 5 years OR by demonstrating that they hold a currently valid full certificate in another state.

Transcript Analysis Requirements

Applicants who have not completed an approved program or do not meet reciprocity requirements can be certified by Transcript Analysis until December 31, 2014. Beginning January 1, 2015 a Credential Review process will replace transcript analysis in areas for which there are no Rhode Island approved preparation programs.

- Applicants who have not completed an approved program can be certified by transcript analysis by presenting evidence of the following:
 - 6 semester hours of student teaching in the relevant area and at the appropriate grade level
 - Not less than 24 semester hours of coursework in each of the following areas:
 - Child Growth and Development
 - Curriculum and Methods in Early Childhood Education
 - Reading Readiness and Developmental Reading
 - Health and Nutrition for the Young Child
 - Child, Family, and Community Relationships
 - Identification of and Service to Special Needs Children
 - Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution
 - Meet all Rhode Island assessment requirement(s) for this certificate area

The student teaching requirement may be waived for an applicant who has had two or more documented years of successful teaching experience in an approved early childhood setting. Certified teachers who have had two or more years teaching experience and who seek early childhood certification may fulfill the student teaching requirement by completing a one-year supervised internship at the early childhood level. After completing the necessary course work for the early childhood certificate, and arranging through the local community for a one-year internship, the Superintendent of Schools may request the issuance of a one-year professional certificate. The Department of Education must approve the internship in advance and the supervisor must have at least three years of teaching experience in the relevant area and at the appropriate grade level. Upon successful completion of the internship, the individual will be issued a five year professional certificate.